

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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R 131029Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4747

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0466

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CT

SUBJECT: CLOSING OF FRENCH CONSULATE GENERAL

REF BANGUI 0460

1. THE FRENCH CONSULATE IN BANGUI CONSTITUTED AN INDEPENDENT UNIT OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY RATHER THAN A SECTION OF THE EMBASSY. IT WAS HOUSED IN A SEPARATE OFFICE WITH A STAFF OF TWO FRENCH DIPLOMATS, CONSUL GENERAL PIERRE VORS AND DEPUTY CONSUL MICHEL CHARLUFOR. ABOUT FIVE OTHER NON-STAFF EMPLOYEES WERE LOCAL-HIRE SECRETARIES. THE CONSULATE OCCUPIED ITSELF MAINLY WITH PROTECTION OF ALMOST 5,000 FRENCH CITIZENS IN THE CAR AND MAINTAINED RECORDS OF NUMEROUS CAR VETERANS OF FRENCH MILITARY SERVICE WHO RECEIVE FRENCH PENSIONS. ALTHOUGH THE CONSULATE IS NOW ABOLISHED BY CAR DECREE OF MAY 10 FOR ROLE CAR GOVT BELIEVES IT PLAYED IN FEEDING INFORMATION CRITICAL OF BOKASSA TO FRENCH PUBLICATIONS, THE STATUS OF ITS DIPLOMATIC STAFF NOTED ABOVE IS NOT CLEAR. DECREE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY DECLARE VORS AND CHARLUFOR PERSONNA NON GRATA, BUT FACT THEIR OFFICE ABOLISHED MAY DICTATE THEIR EARLY DEPARTURE. HOW FRENCH ESTABLISHMENT WILL NOT PROTECT INTERESTS FRENCH CITIZENS IN CAR IS NOT DECIDED BUT SEEMS MOST LIKELY THAT CONSULAR FUNCTIONS WILL HAVE TO BE TRANSFERRED TO EMBASSY STAFF. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR
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TOLD ME EARLY SUNDAY THAT GOCAR HAS TOLD HIM NOTHING

DIRECTLY ABOUT THE CONSULATE.

2. WHILE CAR RATIONALE FOR CLOSURE OF CONSULATE WAS THAT IT
FED INFORMATION CRITICAL OF BOKASSA TO FRENCH PUBLICATIONS, IT
SEEMS CLEAR THAT THIS WAS NOT SOLE OR EVEN MAIN REASON FOR
ABOLISHING CONSULATE. IN EARLY APRIL A 23-YEAR OLD FRENCH
FEMALE CITIZEN WHO SERVED AS HOSTESS ABOARD PRESIDENTIAL
AIRCRAFT AND WHO LIVED AT SAFARI HOTEL WAS FOUND BRUTALLY
MURDERED. HER FAMILY IN FRANCE HAS DEMANDED THAT ALL POSSIBLE
STEPS BE TAKEN TO APPREHEND THE MURDERER AND WE ARE TOLD BY
FRENCH EMBASSY THAT THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE ADVERSE
PUBLICITY ABOUT THE AFFAIR IN FRENCH PRESS. PRESIDENT BOKASS
WAS ABSENT FROM THE CAR AT THE TIME OF THE MURDER BUT IN
LATER INTERVIEW WITH FRENCH CHARGE AND CONSUL GENERAL VORS
HE ASSURED THEM THAT ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN TO FIND PERSON
RESPONSIBLE FOR MURDER. HE THEN CHARGED INTERIOR MINISTER
ALAZOULA WITH TASK WITH PURSUING THE INVESTIGATION. SO FAR HE
HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL.

3. COMMENT: THE MURDERED GIRL IS WIDELY RUMORED TO HAVE SERVED
AS PRESIDENT'S MISTRESS. THE CONSULATE, FOLLOWING THIS
STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT, HAVE PUSHED THE GOVT TOO
HARD AND THUS MADE ITSELF A TARGET FOR PRESIDENTIAL WRATH.
DALE

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